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NASA Procedural Requirements

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Subject: NASA General Safety Program Requirements (w/Change 7 dated 2/25/11)

Responsible Office: Office of Safety and Mission Assurance

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Chapter 4. Aviation Safety

4.1 Purpose and Scope

4.1.1 This chapter provides the procedural requirements for the NASA Aviation Safety Program not covered by NPR 7900.3, Aircraft Operations Management. These requirements provide for managers and aviation safety personnel to establish and implement their aviation mishap prevention programs. NASA philosophy is that mishaps are preventable and that mishap prevention is an inherent function of leadership and management. NASA's major involvement in aeronautics dictates a commitment to aviation safety, not only through the Aviation Safety Program but also in all technology programs.

Note: Requirements for an aviation safety program for each respective flight activity are set forth in NPR 7900.3, Aircraft Operations Management.

4.2 Aviation Safety Program Responsibilities

4.2.1. Mission Directorate Associate Administrators, Center Directors, project managers, and line managers shall ensure that adequate resources are applied to aviation operations to meet aviation safety objectives (Requirement).

4.2.2 The Chief, Safety and Mission Assurance, shall:

- a. Establish NASA Aviation Safety Program requirements and provide support and functional oversight of NASA aviation safety ([Requirement 25174](#)).
- b. When required, provide the NASA Administrator with an independent assessment of NASA's aviation safety status and provide immediate information on critical safety issues ([Requirement 32433](#)).
- c. Conduct reviews (staff assistance visits, safety inspections, and process verifications) to provide insight and to monitor management's effectiveness in aviation safety ([Requirement 32428](#)).
- d. Provide technical and operational assistance to improve the overall aviation safety program ([Requirement 32429](#)).
- e. Assure that the highly diversified aviation activities within NASA have an Aviation Safety Program at Headquarters that covers each flight activity (Requirement).
- f. Assure Aviation Safety Program requirements are comprehensive and proactive in covering all aspects of flight (Requirement).
- g. Assure that NASA Aviation Safety Program requirements cover each level of aviation management (Requirement).

4.2.3 The Director, Safety and Assurance Requirements Division, shall designate the NASA Aviation Safety Manager (Requirement).

4.2.4 The NASA Aviation Safety Manager shall:

- a. Coordinate all OSMA requirements affecting aviation safety or reporting ([Requirement 32436](#)).
- b. Identify aviation safety issues through mishap investigation and analysis ([Requirement 32438](#)).
- c. Participate in the annual NASA Aviation Safety Officer meeting ([Requirement 32440](#)).
- d. Monitor the implementation of the Agency's Aviation Safety Program requirements ([Requirement 32441](#)).
- e. Attend selected program flight readiness and safety reviews ([Requirement 32442](#)).
- f. Serve as an advisor to the Inter-Center Aircraft Operations Panel (IAOP) and participate in IAOP activities, including meetings, reviews, and subpanel activities ([Requirement 32443](#)).
- g. Reserved.
- h. Conduct aviation safety staff assistance visits and reviews ([Requirement 32448](#)).
- i. Coordinate recommendations from mishap investigations that require corrective action from sources or agencies outside of NASA ([Requirement 32449](#)).
- j. Participate in selected aircraft flight operations ([Requirement 32450](#)).
- k. Serve as ex-officio board member to major aircraft mishap investigations and provide independent oversight and expert guidance in investigation procedures and techniques ([Requirement 32439](#)).

I. Provide aviation safety oversight to ensure Headquarters and Center aircraft operations comply with NASA safety policy ([Requirement 32435](#)).

m. Interface with other safety organizations involving aviation safety ([Requirement 32446](#)).

4.3 Interfaces with Other Agencies

NASA aviation activities interface with the aircraft industry, DOT/Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DoD, and foreign governments.

4.3.1 Center Chiefs of Flight Operations shall have a process in place for communicating with outside organizations to exchange flight information that affects their assigned aircraft ([Requirement 32475](#)).

4.3.2 DoD

4.3.2.1 Because NASA uses many military airfields and aircraft common to the military services, Center Chiefs of Flight Operations shall:

- a. Ensure coordination with the United States Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine Corps where applicable ([Requirement 32478](#)).
- b. Ensure the use of the various military safety publications, cross-exchange of accident prevention data, and participation in joint safety efforts ([Requirement 32479](#)).

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